



**Request for City Council Committee Action
Health Department**

Date: May 12, 2014

To: HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Subject: PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND FOOD CODE ORDINANCE ON
ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING

Recommendation:

Public hearing on amending Title 10, Chapter 204 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Food Code: Environmental Preservation: Environmentally Acceptable Packing

Previous Directives: Referred to staff from City Council on April 25, 2014.

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
Phone: x2884

Approved by:

Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ____ Not Applicable X
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval ____ Date of Approval ____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Josh Rudlong, Health Inspector II; Health Department
Kellie Kish, Recycling Coordinator; Public Works Department

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

This draft ordinance is based on the existing Title 10, Chapter 204 Minneapolis Ordinance titled "Environmentally Acceptable Packaging." The focus of this ordinance is packaging associated with food and beverage prepared for immediate consumption, as this type of discarded packaging constitutes a significant and growing portion of Minneapolis's waste stream. Some types of plastic packaging are more easily recycled as there are robust recycling markets. Additionally, some plastics cause toxic by-products when incinerated

A work group consisting of City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff met over the course of several months to revise the language to reflect current knowledge and standards in regards to recycling and composting in Minneapolis (especially plastics recycling). The changes include expanding the definition of Packaging, updating the definition of Recyclable Packaging to include environmentally preferable Plastic Packaging types based on recyclability, and defining Compostable Packaging as meeting the requirements of ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868. To fully meet

the intent of this ordinance packaging shall be considered environmentally acceptable packaging only when the food establishment provides consumers with an opportunity to recycle and/or appropriately manage compostable plastics, and has an appropriate collection system.

Many municipalities in the United States have adopted similar ordinances including San Francisco, CA, San Diego, CA, Portland, OR, Seattle, WA, and New York City, NY. This ordinance supports the City of Minneapolis goal of “Great Places - natural and built spaces work together and our environment is protected” by minimizing waste and promoting recycling.